

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4665

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LOURENCO MARQUES 255

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0589

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGY: PGOV, PINT, PFOR, SF, WA, US, UK, FR, UN

SUBJECT: EMBASSY COMMENTS ON SAG AIDE MEMOIRE

REF: (A) CAPE TOWN 588 (NOTAL); (B) CAPE TOWN 573

1. SUMMARY. SAG'S FORMAL RESPONSE (TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE IN REF A) TO TRIPARTITE DEMARCHE PRESENTS SUBSTANTIALLY SAME POSITIONS OUTLINED IN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S MAY 20 WINDHOEK SPEECH (REF B), BUT DOES INTRODUCE SOME NEW ELEMENTS WHICH ELABORATE ON PREVIOUS STATEMENTS AND MAY BE WORTHY OF NOTE. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN WINDHOEK SPEECH, VORSTER PRETTY MUCH CONFINED HIMSELF TO

REPEATING HIS EARLIER FORMULATION THAT "ALL OPTIONS ARE OPEN" FOR PEOPLES OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA TO DETERMINE THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE. HE ALSO SAID AT THAT TIME THAT SAG HAD NO QUARRELS WITH OAU ON QUESTIONS OF SELF-DETERMINATION, INDEPENDENCE, AND MAINTENANCE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE TERRITORY. AIDE MEMOIRE SEEMS TO TAKE THIS ONE STEP FURTHER, PERHAPS IN RESPONSE TO CRITICISMS OF SAG'S LACK OF CLARITY ABOUT "TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY," BY SPECIFICALLY STATING THAT "INDEPENDENCE AS ONE STATE, IF THAT IS WHAT THEY SHOULD CHOOSE" IS ONE OF THE OPTIONS.

3. ANOTHER NEW ELEMENT IN AIDE MEMOIRE IS THE SETTING OF FIRST WEEK IN JUNE AS TIME AT WHICH SWA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY STUDY GROUP ON RACE RELATIONS LEGISLATION WILL SUBMIT ITS REPORT TO LEGISLATURE'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

4. I ASKED FOREIGN MINISTER AT MORNING MEETING DURING WHICH WE WERE HANDED AIDE MEMOIRE IF SAG COULD BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT MEANING OF "IN NEAR FUTURE" IN RELATION TO TIMETABLE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS. FOREIGN SECRETARY FOURIE RESPONDED THAT GOVERNMENT HAD HOPED TO HAVE TALKS BEGIN IN JUNE OR JULY BUT THAT ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE HEREROS AND DAMARAS, HAD DELAYED THOSE GROUPS FROM SELECTING REPRESENTATIVES. HE SAID THAT "IN NEAR FUTURE" SHOULD BE READ AS MEANING WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AND NOT OVER A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME.

5. SUBSEQUENT TO TRIPARTITE MEETING WITH FONMIN MULLER THIS MORNING, BRAND FOURIE TOLD BOTTOMLEY THAT SAG HAD BEEN AWARE OF QUESTIONS RAISED BY ZAMBIAN PERMREP BAND (USUN 1760) AT TIME REPLY TO SYG WAS BEING DRAFTED. WHETHER THIS ACCOUNTED FOR ANY LINGUISTIC CHANGES IN THE SAG APPROACH IS UNKNOWN.

6. OVERALL, LANGUAGE OF AIDE MEMOIRE MAY HAVE SLIGHTLY MORE POSITIVE TONE THAN VORSTER'S MAY 20 WINDHOEK SPEECH, BUT GENERAL POLICY CONTENT IS THE SAME AND LITTLE HAS BEEN ADDED TO HELP FORESTALL AFRICAN PRESSURES IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. SETTING OF FIRST WEEK IN JUNE FOR PRESENTATION OF STUDY GROUP'S REPORT MIGHT BE USED IN ARGUING THAT SOME MOVEMENT IS IN WORKS AND THAT UN SHOULD ENCOURAGE SAG TO GREATER ENDEAVORS RATHER THAN ADOPT PUNITIVE (E.G. CHAPTER SEVEN) MEASURES WHICH MIGHT PROVOKE SAG INTO MOVING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTION. HOWEVER, CARE MUST BE

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TAKEN NOT TO OVER-EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF STUDY GROUP'S PRESENTATION AS IT IS STILL VERY UNCLEAR TO WHAT DEGREE GROUP, SWA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, AND SAG ARE COMMITTED TO ENDING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN NAMIBIA. IF PAST EXPERIENCE IS ANY GUIDE, THE REPORT COULD PROVE TO BE DISAPPOINTINGLY SHORT OF WHAT IS REQUIRED.
BOWDLER

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